

Wild Animal Rehabilitation Permit Regulations

312 IAC 9-10-9 Wild animal rehabilitation permit

Authority: IC 14-22-2-6; IC 14-22-11-12

Affected: IC 4-21.5; IC 14-22

Sec. 9. (a) This section governs a permit to possess a wild animal for rehabilitation. The permit is required for a mammal, bird, reptile, or amphibian and is available only to an individual who is a resident of Indiana. A white-tailed deer must not be possessed under this section for more than one hundred eighty (180) days unless a conservation officer inspects the animal and determines an extended period may be reasonably expected to result in its rehabilitation.

(b) An application for a permit under this section shall be completed on a departmental form and must establish the following:

(1) The applicant has rehabilitation experience and a knowledge of wildlife rehabilitation techniques. The required experience and knowledge may be met by one (1) of the following:

(A) A bachelor of science degree in a wildlife related field.

(B) At least one (1) year of experience with a:

(i) veterinarian;

(ii) zoo;

(iii) university animal clinic;

(iv) county animal shelter; or

(v) licensed rehabilitation clinic.

(C) Possession for at least two (2) years of another permit under this section.

(D) Other knowledge and background, including the completion of rehabilitation workshops and seminars, if found by the division director to qualify the applicant.

(2) The name and address of a veterinarian willing to assist the applicant with the rehabilitation of wild animals. The veterinarian shall sign the application and attest to having experience in the care and rehabilitation of wild mammals and birds. If the applicant is a veterinarian, the signature of another veterinarian is not required.

(3) A listing of the wildlife rehabilitation reference books in possession of the applicant.

(4) The names, addresses, and telephone numbers of any other individuals who will assist the applicant. Assistants must possess sufficient experience and adequate facilities to tend the species in their care and be authorized in writing by the permit holder to provide care for that species of animal in their own facility.

(5) The species that will be accepted for rehabilitation.

(6) A description of the rehabilitation facilities, equipment, and supplies. The description shall include the following:

(A) Cages.

(B) Intensive care units.

(C) Aviaries.

(D) Falconry equipment.

(E) Medical diagnostic equipment.

(F) Medical supplies.

(G) Food sources.

(H) Other items to be utilized in the rehabilitation process.

A cage description shall provide its internal dimensions and shall specify the materials used for flooring, walls, and perches. The applicant shall list what species will be housed in the various enclosures and the purpose for each enclosure, for example, convalescing, training, or quarantine.

(c) An amended application must be filed with the division if there is a material change to the information provided in the original application. The amended application must include the name, address, and telephone number of any additional person who would assist the permit holder.

(d) The permit holder must file an application by January 15 of each year in order to renew the permit. The annual report required under subsection (i) must accompany the renewal application. The signature of a veterinarian is not required for a renewal application.

(e) The issuance of a permit under this section does not relieve an individual from any requirement for a federal permit. If the terms of a federal permit and the permit issued under this section differ, the more restrictive terms prevail.

(f) A wild animal possessed pursuant to a permit issued under this section must not be displayed or placed in physical contact with the public, except according to the terms of an educational permit issued under section 9.5 of this rule.

(g) A permit holder must maintain facilities for the retention of a wild animal possessed under this section in a sanitary condition and to conform with any other conditions specified by the permit.

(h) A permit holder must maintain current records for each wild animal to include the following:

- (1) The species and condition of the animal.
- (2) The name, address, and telephone number of the donor or other source of the animal.
- (3) The date of receipt by the permit holder.
- (4) The treatment provided to the animal while in captivity.
- (5) The method and date of disposition of the wild animal.

(i) The permit holder shall provide an annual report to the division by January 15 of each year. The report shall list the following:

- (1) The species and condition of each animal.
- (2) The date the animal was received.
- (3) The name and address of the donor or other source.
- (4) The method, location, and date of disposition of the animal.

(j) As soon as a wild animal is capable of fending for itself, the animal shall be released into the wild as directed by a conservation officer. If a wild animal is not capable of fending for itself, a conservation officer must be contacted for instructions concerning its disposition.

(k) A permit holder must not commercially advertise rehabilitation services or solicit for rehabilitation a wild animal that is subject to this section.

(l) A permit may be suspended, denied, or revoked under IC 4-21.5 if the permit holder fails to comply with any of the following:

- (1) A permit issued under this section.
- (2) This article or IC 14-22.
- (3) Another applicable state, local, or federal law.

(Natural Resources Commission; 312 IAC 9-10-9; filed May 12, 1997, 10:00 a.m.: 20 IR 2730; readopted filed Jul 28, 2003, 12:00 p.m.: 27 IR 286)